

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205953

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TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: CRAWFORD CASE: DOBRYNIN INVITATION TO
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

REF: (A) STATE 200725, (B) MOSCOW 18895

1. BROOKS MCCORMICK HAS DIS-
PATCHED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY THE FOLLOUING RESPONSE TO
DOBRYNIN'S INVITATION (REF A) TO COME TO MOSCOW AND
EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE IN THE CRAWFORD CASE. IN ADVISING
MCCORMICK, WE HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERATIONS
YOU SET OUT IN REF B. AS YOU WILL SEE, THE LETTER CASTS
ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION IN TERMS OF BRINGING THE
AFFAIR TO A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION, AND RULES OUT
ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST CRAWFORD. WE HAVE
ALSO SUGGESTED TO INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER THE POTENTIAL
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DESIRABILITY OF MAKING A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN DUE COURSE,
AND OFFERED HELP IN PREPARING SUCH A STATEMENT. THEY
WELCOMED SUCH ADVICE.

2. TEXT OF MCCORMICK RESPONSE TO DOBRYNIN FOLLOWS: BEGIN
QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE WHICH MR. VASEV
DELIVERED. I HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE INVITATION

YOU HAVE EXTENDED WITH RESPECT TO THE CHARGES AGAINST
MR. CRAWFORD.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS AFFAIR BE PUT BEHIND US PROMPTLY.
WHILE IT CONTINUES, SERIOUS HARM IS BEING DONE TO THE
CLIMATE FOR GOOD TRADE AND BUSINESS RELATIONS. I NEED NOT
TELL YOU HOW MUCH EFFORT WAS REQUIRED OVER A LONG PERIOD ON
BOTH SIDES TO DEVELOP THE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CLIMATE
WE HAD ACHIEVED, AND HOW PAINFUL IT IS TO CONTEMPLATE THE
IRREPARABLE DAMAGE WHICH CAN RESULT FROM FURTHER PROTRAC-
TION OF THIS MATTER.

IF A VISIT BY MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HELP BRING
THIS SITUATION TO A SWIFT AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION, THEN
I AM PREPARED TO SEND SUCH A REPRESENTATIVE. IT WOULD BE
NECESSARY, OF COURSE, TO HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE MISSION
WOULD HAVE SUCH A RESULT, AND NOT THE CONTRARY EFFECT OF
PROLONGING AND FURTHER AGGRAVATING THE MATTER.

I MUST TELL YOU IN ALL SERIOUSNESS THAT NO ALLEGED PROOF OF
THE CHARGES AGAINST MR. CRAWFORD WILL SHAKE MY BELIEVE, THE
BELIEF OF AMERICAN BUSINESS, AND POPULAR OPINION IN THE
UNITED STATES GENERALLY, THAT HE IS INNOCENT AND THAT THE
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE
BEING CONDUCTED ARISE FROM CONSIDERATIONS TOTALLY UNRE-
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LATED TO MR. CRAWFORD OR TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SOVIET LAW.
THEREFORE, THE VISIT OF MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE
INTENDED PRIMARILY TO EXPLORE WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND TO
AGREE UPON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THE MATTER.

I BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE SAID HERE IS CLEAR TO YOU AND THAT IT
WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE INVITATION YOU EXTENDED.
THEREFORE, ON THIS BASIS, I PROPOSE TO DESIGNATE EARLY NEXT
WEEK A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN
AIDE, AND TO HAVE HIM APPROACH YOUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
FOR THE NECESSARY VISAS.

THANK YOU FOR THE COURTESY OF YOUR REPLY. END QUOTE.

CHRISTOPHER

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